

Bloomington American Legion Post 550

Monday, January 8, 2023, Minutes

- Meeting called to order by Post Commander Dan Welch.
- Colors presented, prayer offered. The POW flag was placed on an empty chair. Pledge and Preamble recited.
- Introduction of a new member: Chris Schmid, active-duty US Navy Reserve, commander of USN&MC Reserve Center Twin Cities.
- Roll call of officers: 2nd Vice Commander excused.
- Printed copies of the November minutes distributed. Mead moved, Mellin seconded, and the minutes were approved.
- Commander: Dan Welch told us about the many cards and letters received thanking Bloomington Post 550 for the financial support we provide to them.
- Adjutant: Warren Christopherson provided information regarding the 10th District Mid-Winter Conference on Jan. 13 in Anoka.
- Membership: Filling in for Paul Hassing, Jim Mead reported renewals for 2024 are at 287. This is 87 percent of the 325 the department has set as our goal. Post 550 set a self-goal of 400 for 2024.
- Gambling Manager: Tim Engstrom provided the gambling report for December. The Gambling Committee did not meet in January. He asked for a \$500 donation for Bloomington Mite Hockey. Engstrom said the \$4,000 approved tentatively in December to Richfield Post 435 was not sent as it was determined to be an improper donation of gambling funds. A motion was made by Zesch and seconded by Warren to approve the report and Mite request. Motion was carried.
- Gun Safety: The next course is planned for April 2024. An eight-hour web-based training is required before the one-day range training in April and the Fall Course is being planned for Aug. 4-11. Gun Safety questions contact Kirk Whiting 612-201-2248.
- Legion Riders: No Report
- Sons of the American Legion reported two additional paid members for 2024.
- Unfinished Business:
 - Tim Engstrom said that he and Bonnie Proctor worked on the dues-payment portion of the website. It took an afternoon, but it got done.
 - Engstrom is looking for an organization to assist in running "V2 video races" on Tuesdays at the Sports Page. Keith Zesch indicated that Kennedy football boosters are interested.
- New Business:
 - A joint meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, with VFW Post 1926 will plan Memorial Day activities. Anyone is welcome.
 - National and department are increasing dues for 2025. Christopherson said the district is not increasing dues. The post will vote on its new dues rate at the February meeting.
 - Commander Welch will form a committee to review and update the By-Laws for Post 550. Engstrom will make a dozen paper copies of them.

- Prayer was offered.
- POW flag was recovered.
- Colors retired.
- The meeting was adjourned.

— Adjutant Warren Christopherson